

State of Louisiana



M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is America's largest distributary river swamp and Louisiana's national treasure, providing an abundance of natural resources that is the basis of a rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, protecting and preserving a wet and wild Atchafalaya basin has been an important goal put forward by a diverse array of Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 Congress approved a Master Plan for protecting the Basin, restoring hydrology, and providing public access and recreational opportunities, to be administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the state of Louisiana adopted the Atchafalaya Basin Program and Master Plan to provide a state partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and funding for local projects; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 the state of Louisiana established the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Program, Commission, and Advisory Board to interpret the history and culture of the Atchafalaya Basin and to help local communities create and manage tourism opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on October 12-13, 2002, Experience Atchafalaya Days, sponsored by the Atchafalaya Basin Program, the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Commission, the Sierra Club, the Cajun Coast Visitors and Convention Bureau, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and with participation from Louisiana State Parks and State Historic Sites and many other individuals and groups, will showcase the local people and communities and natural history of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, many other events in October will highlight and celebrate the richness and environment of the Atchafalaya Basin, including the Atchafalaya Basin Program Fall Tour and the Atchafalaya Adventure Race at Lake Fausse Pointe State Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 2002, as

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN MONTH

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all Louisiana citizens to participate in efforts to enjoy, preserve, and protect the Atchafalaya Basin.



Attest By

The Governor

Joseph E. Keithen

Secretary of State

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 8th day of August
A.D., 2002

M. J. Foster, Jr.
Governor of Louisiana